

SOME EXPERIENCES OF A MISSIONARY

Edmund T. Olson Relates How He and His Companions Preached.

INSTANCE OF "PERSECUTION" IN A TOWN IN MICHIGAN

Closes With a Talk to Mormon Boys on the Impositions They Endure.

My missionary experience in Indiana and adjoining States put me in touch with some facts concerning the terrible persecutions which the Latter-day Saints seem to have a corner on. At the conference we held near Danville, Ind., soon after our arrival one of the cardinal topics was persecution. Unless you succeed in being persecuted you are not in it. Something was wrong with you. It was declared that one of the strongest tests of the success of a mission was the amount of persecution he received. The man who could stir up the greatest storm of rotten eggs and scurvy for himself the heaviest coat of tar and feathers was winning the highest laurels. When Elder Davis related to us the circumstances of his being tarred and feathered and his being on a rail by a gang of Hoosiers, all eyes turned to him as the hero of the occasion, and we thought the small of tar would be soon perfume to us.

A Tolerant People.

It did not take many days' experience to learn the general feeling of the people toward the Mormons. They were tolerant. We were hospitably treated, many of the poorer class would discommodate themselves for our comfort and entertainment, and in return we would make ourselves as interesting as possible, relating stories of the past, of the Great West, and also explaining the principles upon which we based our faith. They were frank in telling us that we had a very unpopular religion and that we had caused the Government considerable trouble and expense. At the same time they would say, "There is no school house or church open to you, we will come out to hear what you have to say." This sentiment prevailed out in the country districts. When we came nearer to the centers of civilization, they were more indifferent and less tolerant. Here we would come in contact with people of a higher degree of intelligence, who considered it the climax of absurdity to waste their time discussing priestcraft and polygamy with a Mormon.

First Taste of "Persecution."

It was at Spring Lake, Mich., where my uncle, Edwin King, and I had our first taste of "persecution" served upon us. At a meeting held at a private residence we had preached long and loud, and the subject of "The Government of God," which we declared was the only kind of government that had any reason to exist, and all others being temporary, man-made fabrications, which would be swept from the face of the earth in the Lord's own time. Our theme upon this occasion was a repetition of the writings of Apostle Orson Pratt and other high authorities on Mormon doctrine.

At the close of the meeting a pastor of the Methodist church asked the question: "Do you affirm and believe it as a Divine truth that the present Government will supersede the Government of the United States?" He also desired to know if the practice of plural marriage would be popularly carried on when the Government became established throughout the civilized world.

We parroted to him the threadbare statement that the Mormons were more loyal to their country than any set of people on the face of God's footstool, but we gave him to understand that in due course of time this United States Government would have to have a tombstone. It would be laid to rest like all other human structures, and upon its ruins would be reared the Kingdom of God, with headquarters at New Jerusalem. There was abundance of time to explain the point of a Latter-day Saint, to bear us out in this statement.

The Polygamy Fog.

We were somewhat in the fog when we faced his last question. That hydra-headed monster, polygamy, a source of perpetual annoyance. The skeleton form of this spectre was ever present to mock us and make us ashamed. With the courage of our convictions, we answered him that the doctrine of plural marriage was part of our religion, and had been revealed to our prophet, Joseph, as a new and everlasting covenant. How could we answer otherwise and be honest with our religion?

Our opponent had little to say, except that he advised us to be careful about preaching treason against this great Government, but he said that we were doing exactly the opposite of what we were doing, teaching the people to violate the laws of our country by adopting the system of plural marriage.

This might have ended the matter had we not continued the controversy by asserting that we were here to teach and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that we were here to teach the people to violate the laws of our country by adopting the system of plural marriage.

Gifts of the Priesthood.

We flattered ourselves that, being endowed with both the Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthoods, we were entitled to multifarious gifts. We could prophesy, and worldly events would shape themselves into harmony with our predictions, provided we set no dates. Dates are positively the most inconvenient things to tack on to a prophecy.

We could have the sick, provided the patient had a sufficient amount of faith.

The test of his faith being the rapidity of recovery.

We had power to raise the dead, if we thought best to let the dead sleep quietly without being disturbed by us. Casting out devils was another diversion we could turn to, or take up with serpents, if we let that go for the girl in the side show.

Upon being requested by our antagonist to perform some of the miracles, we shot at him the Scripture quotation, "Wicked and adulterous generation seek ye to kill the prophets and slay them."

TEA

We are doing our part in raising the grade of tea in this country.

Visit greater returns your money if you don't like Soling's Tea.

What is home without another cup of

Golden Gate Coffee



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after signs. Every elder on the mission had this bit of ammunition at their command. It saved them the trouble required in performing many miracles.

It was about this time that the minister slipped up and told us we had better cut our visitation to the people there would be able to get along comfortably without having any Mormon doctrine inserted into their midst. He was seconded by a few others who had collected, all of whom gave it to us straight that it was twenty-three for us. They were informed that we would leave when we were to depart and would be right out on schedule time.

Take to the Woods.

Not more than two hours elapsed until there were upwards of two or three hundred people gathered on the hill, south out of curiosity, and others bent upon assisting us out of town. A few pistol shots were fired by some hoodlums, whereupon we took to the hills, and, quietly secluding ourselves until the noise of the crowd had died away. Early dawn witnessed the dust from our feet upon that city.

The Pitiful Elders.

It was pitiful what these elders had to endure, and it is to be deplored that their courage and energy could not have been devoted to a better cause. They tramped from place to place in the dead of winter, the snow some times knee deep, hungry and worn out, often times sick.

Sermon to Mormon Boys.

I want to preach a short sermon to you Mormon boys. There was something wrong in the missionary field. The church lays it on to God, saying it is his way of doing things. One who will believe such a thing has very little more thinking power than can be got out of a sausage.

Study Mankind.

Study mankind; believe in yourself; cultivate yourself. Man is the highest order of beings that God has created. The comic minds. Study him in all his phases of body, mind, and soul, like Darwin, who studied him like the poetical mind of Walt Whitman studied him.

Keep Your Own Substance.

Wonders can be accomplished by training and polishing the finer sensibilities of humanity. The substance you earn is the means to this end, and you are entitled to it. If you don't keep it, you are certainly in the position of geese or suckers.

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In view of these things think who are your persecutors. Not the people of the outside world, but the world inside of you. If you would let them, the medium through which you are persecuted is the church. That persecutes you by denying you and yours the liberal education and culture that is yours by birth.

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BANKERS HEAR WORDS OF WISDOM

Nation's Growing Greatness Is Theme of Distinguished Speakers.

NEW YORK FINANCIER GIVES TIMELY WARNING

Secretary of the Treasury Voices Country's Need of Merchant Marine.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—There prevailed in the important speeches before the American Bankers' association convention here today the sentiment that financial legislation is necessary. Thirty-three hundred bankers applauded Secretary Shaw to the echo when he concluded a lengthy address, the burden of which was a panorama of the prosperity of the country contrasted with the financial system which is inflexible and liable thereby to bring disaster at any critical time.

Shaw Suggests Remedy.

Secretary Shaw suggested a remedy—a heavily-taxed National bank note currency—which would be drawn forth at times of unusual demand for money and by reason of the tax be retired immediately upon changed conditions.

President Receives Bankers.

President Taft received the association reviewed the association's growth and development for the year. President Roosevelt was applauded and thanked for his successful efforts in making peace between Russia and Japan.

Declines the Keys.

Responding to the welcome, President E. J. Swinney of the association declined the keys of the city on behalf of his brother bankers, to keep their reputation inviolate should things be missing after they had gone.

Interest in Report.

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